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Gertrude Diamant, Author Of 'The Days of Ofelia,' 67

Special to The New York Times

LARCHMONT, N. Y., Jan. 4 —Gertrude Diamant, whose narrative of life in Mexico, "The Days of Ofelia," was a Book-of-the-Month Club selection in 1942, died today at United Hospital in Port Chester. She was 67 years old and lived here at 31 Mayhew Avenue.

Miss Diamant graduated from Barnard College in 1924 and taught English at Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn. She had contributed articles to magazines and newspapers, written a novel, "Labyrinth," and taught also at the Famous Writers School in Westport, Conn.

Two sisters, Mrs. Hannah Severin and Mrs. Naomi Shaw, survive.

Labyrinth is available at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=umn.31951002092664j&view=1up&seq=10>

Days of Ofelia is available at:

<https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uva.x001641154&view=1up&seq=16>



Gertrude Diamant

THE DAYS OF OFELIA, which was first published in 1942, is a book about Mexico that cuts through the surface and shows you the living people. 'Vivid,' 'delightful,' 'completely real' are worn-out phrases, but there are no others that do justice to this truly extraordinary narrative.

Ofelia Escoto was a little girl that the author, Gertrude Diamant, met when she went apartment-hunting in the City of Mexico, and who became her maid. Ofelia's father was a nightwatchman with a family of thirteen to support; and for many months the author shared the life of the Escotos, sympathized with them in their misfortunes, and watched the love story of Ofelia's brother Daniel, with its tragic denouement. But the book is more than the story of the Escotos. It tells also of visits to the parched, poverty-stricken country of the Otomi Indians, where the author went to conduct 'lost intelligence tests,' of the picturesque dances and rituals of a wedding in tropical Tehuantepec, of the hazards of traveling in a Mexican bus along the Laredo highway, of the wisdom displayed by Mexican judges in handling the homeless children of the Revolution, **and of the vagaries of Mexican officials who tried to deport the author on the ground that she was a Polish refugee.**

"It is amazingly well written; it has humor, it has charm, and it conveys the flavour of Mexican life with extraordinary accuracy. To me, it seems much the best book on life in Mexico which has appeared since Flandrau's classic 'Viva Mexico,' both in the quality of the writing and in the accuracy with which it catches the Mexican scene. It is far superior to the innumerable books on Mexico that have appeared during the past decade."—H. B. Parkes, author of History of Mexico.

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NOTE: Gertrude Diamant may have divorced Alter in Mexico. At the time, divorces were difficult to obtain in New York. Going to Mexico was a work-around option. Gertrude seems not to have appeared in the 1940 Census under Brody or Diamant and may have been in Mexico at the time.